

**ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350 Little Rock, AR 72201

Phone: (501) 682-1611 Fax: (501) 682-3991

<http://www.anrc.arkansas.gov>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****JANUARY 8, 2008****ANRC ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW STATE CLIMATOLOGIST**

(LITTLE ROCK) - Governor Mike Beebe recently appointed the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) as the Office of the Arkansas State Climatologist, and directed ANRC Executive Director J. Randy Young, P.E. to name Michael J. Borengasser as the State Climatologist. Borengasser, 63, also works as the State National Flood Insurance (NFIP) Coordinator, and has served as hydrologist for the State's Dam Safety Program.

The role of weather and climate in the economy, environment and everyday lives of the citizens of the State of Arkansas is becoming increasingly important. "The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission is involved in a number of activities which have significant climate interactions, including water planning and management, floodplain management, and agriculture," said Young. The establishment of an Office of State Climatologist in Arkansas marks a beginning in making climate resources more available to the public.

Borengasser earned a B.A. in mathematics and an M.A. in geography from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He has also conducted post-graduate work in physical geography, climatology and hydrology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

The duties of the Office of the Arkansas State Climatologist are:

- Coordinate information on weather and climate from existing sources and make it accessible through a website;
- Promote the office as a source for weather and climate information to state agencies, local governments and to the public;
- Assist customers in understanding and using climate data;
- Provide outreach and education to the public regarding principles of weather and climate;
- Direct inquiries to experts or agencies appropriate to answer questions.

For more information about the Office of the Arkansas State Climatologist, please contact Michael Borengasser at 501 682-3969 or e-mail [michael.borengasser@arkansas.gov](mailto:michael.borengasser@arkansas.gov).